

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 16 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT U.S. AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA "RECESSED TALKS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF NEW SALT AGREEMENT FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS."
2. NICHOLAS DANILOFF OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL LESLIE GELB TOLD HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN OPEN SESSION YESTER-

DAY THAT TREATY TO BAN ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING WOULD KEEP SOVIET UNION IN AN INFERIOR POSITION IN NUCLEAR WAR-HEAD TECHNOLOGY FOR DURATION OF PACT. GELB SAID "FULLY EFFECTIVE CTB WOULD LEAVE US WITH AN ADVANTAGE. WE ARE AHEAD. I DON'T THINK I'VE TOLD THEM ANYTHING THEY CAN'T READ IN OPEN LITERATURE. THEY KNOW WHERE THEY STAND IN WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. I DON'T THINK THAT IS SECRET." REP. BOB CARR SAID HE WAS ASTONISHED BY REMARK OF GELB. DANILOFF SAID GELB POINTED OUT SOVIETS, DESPITE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL LAG, MAY HAVE OTHER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH CAUSE THEM TO FAVOR FULL BAN ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING FOR

LIMITED PERIOD AT THIS TIME. UPI CORRESPONDENT SAID GELB DENIED SUGGESTIONS STATE DEPARTMENT WAS SO INTENT ON COMPLETING TEST BAN TREATY IT WAS INCLINED TO OVERLOOK NEED FOR LIMITED NUMBER OF TESTS TO CHECK ON QUALITY OF STOCKPILED WEAPONS. "OF COURSE WE WOULDN'T WANT TO PREJUDICE OUR STOCKPILE," GELB TOLD REP. CHARLES WILSON.

3. JOHN FIALKA OF WASHINGTON STAR QUOTED DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICIALS AS SAYING REPORTS OF DRAMATIC BREAKTHROUGH IN DEVELOPMENT OF FUSION ENERGY WERE OVERSTATED. THESE OFFICIALS SAID DEVELOPMENT ALTHOUGH GRATIFYING WILL MAKE NO CHANGE IN TIMETABLE OR FUNDING OF GOVERNMENT FUSION RESEARCH. DR. MELVIN B. GOTTLIEB, DIRECTOR OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LABORATORY WHERE FUSION EXPERIMENT TOOK PLACE TWO WEEKS AGO, UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID AT ENERGY DEPARTMENT PRESS CONFERENCE MONDAY THAT SOME INFORMATION RELEASED ABOUT EXPERIMENT "WAS NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE." WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, ACCORDING TO GOTTLIEB, WAS THAT POWERFUL PULSE OF ENERGY AIMED AT GAS INSIDE SMALL, DOUGHNUT-SHAPED RESEARCH REACTOR CREATED TEMPERATURE OF 60 MILLION DEGREES CENTIGRADE, ROUGHLY FOUR TIMES HOTTER THAN INTERIOR OF SUN, WHICH ALSO IS FED BY FUSION ENERGY. PULSE AND RESULTANT TEMPERATURE, GOTTLIEB SAID, LASTED ONLY HALF SECOND AND EXPERIMENT ABSORBED 100 TIMES ENERGY THAT WAS CREATED IN REACTION. ALTHOUGH AN ENERGY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID SATURDAY THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY ACTUAL CONDITIONS OF FUSION HAVE BEEN PRODUCED IN FUSION REACTOR IN SCALE MODEL," GOTTLIEB AND DR. JOHN M. DEUTCH, DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR OF ENERGY RESEARCH, EMPHASIZED SCIENTISTS STILL HAVE LONG WAY TO GO TO PROVE FEASIBILITY OF FUSION AS AN ENERGY SOURCE. GOTTLIEB SAID EXPERIMENT FAILED TO REACH LONG-AWAITED POINT OF "ENERGY BREAK-EVEN" -- POINT WHERE REACTION YIELDS AT LEAST AS MUCH ENERGY AS IT CONSUMES. GOTTLIEB SAID THAT POINT COULD BE REACHED IN EARLY 1980S, BUT EVEN THEN IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 20 MORE YEARS AND SEVERAL OTHER BREAKTHROUGHS BEFORE COMMERCIAL FUSION REACTOR COULD BE

DEVELOPED. CHRISTOPHER

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